

From: Steven Hartman
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 5:33 PM
To: Briel, Ron
Subject: Surgical tech support

Dear Ron,

I wanted to write to tell you about what I do as a Surgical Tech. I have been working for Dr. David Clare for about 6 years and I worked at Saint Elizabeths in the OR for about 12 years prior to that. My whole career has been built on my ability to assist Surgeons and my ability to keep patients safe from infection during what is probably the most stressful event of their life. We assist with passion, care, and a level of professionalism that most people will never remember. My duties are draping of the surgical field and the patient. Setting up and organizing instruments and supplies needed during the surgery. Assisting the surgeon with retraction and exposure of the surgical site. Suction and cautery as needed to help the surgeon see what and where they are working. All of this is accomplished while doing my primary duty which is keeping everything and everyone in the room sterile. These actions happen everyday by all CST's (Certified Surgical Technologist) in every surgical procedure done.

Surgery by nature is an invasion of the body's natural defenses, thereby necessitating meticulous aseptic technique. That is my passion. I enjoy my job. I still get excited everyday knowing that I play a significant role in the outcome of the surgery as well as the surgeons and patients' success. It has always concerned me that Surgical techs are not recognized as members of the medical community. It concerns me that the state has not allowed all CST's to become licensed by the state of Nebraska. We have been working silently in this role for too long without being accounted for by the state. It's time the public knows what we do and the role we have in the outcome of their surgery.

I look forward to working with Circulating Nurses and the hospitals in our state to help us be recognized by the State of Nebraska as members of the surgical team.

Thank you for your time.

Steven Hartman CST